

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. SUMMARY - TAIWAN'S LARGEST CIRCULATION UNITED DAILY NEWS AND THE KMT'S OFFICIAL CENTRAL DAILY NEWS MARCH 21 BOTH EDITORIALLY HELD U.S. RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL SETBACKS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND SAID U.S. OBLIGATED TO PROTECT SOUTH AGAINST NORTH VIETNAMESE VIOLATIONS OF PARIS PEACE AGREEMENT SINCE IT WAS PRODUCED IN WASHINGTON. U.S. HAS NOT KEPT ITS PROMISE AND INDOCHINA SITUATION POSES DIRECT CHALLENGE U.S. NATIONAL DESTINY. END SUMMAY.

2. LARGEST CIRCULATION UNITED DAILY NEWS (320,000) AND KMT'S OFFICIAL CENTRAL DAILY NEWS (300,000) MARCH 21 SAID DANGEROUS SITUATION IN INDOCHINA POSES DIRECT CHALLENGE U.S. NATIONAL DESTINY. UNITED DAILY NEWS TERMED SUDDEN WORSENING SITUATION STRATEGIC RETREAT BY SOUTH VIETNAMESE AFTER NORTH VIETNAMESE, WITH STRONG RUSSIAN AND RED CHINESE BACKING, THREW MORE DIVISIONS INTO SOUTH TIPPING BALANCE AGAINST SAIGON. MUST HAVE BEEN PAINFUL DECISION FOR PRESIDENT THIEU MAKING DREADFUL PULLBACKS AND LEAVING SIX NORTHERN PROVINCES TO COMMUNISTS. BOTH PAPERS QUESTIONED WHAT SAIGON COULD DO IN FACE OF OVERWELMING UNCLASSIFIED

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ODDS AND DWINDLING SUPPORT FROM DIFFIDENT AND UNWILLING

U.S. CONGRESS. SAID U.S. RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL SETBACKS
SOUTH VIETNAM SINCE PARIS PEACE ACCORDS WERE PRODUCED BY
WASHINGTON. THUS UMS. OBLIGATED PROTECT SOUTH AGAINST
NORTH'S VIOLATIONS THESE ACCORDS. BUT U.S. HAS NOT KEPT
PROMISES. UNITED DAILY NOTED AMERICANS NOW TALKING ABOUT
DOMINO THEORY. WHAT NEEDED IS AN AMERICAN RESCUE EFFORT,
SUCH AS IN GREECE YEARS AGO.

CLARKE

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